

LOUISVILLE MEDICAL NEWS.

"*NEC TENUI PENNA.*"

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THE KENTUCKY STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

We publish elsewhere an abstract of the proceedings of the State Society, which convened in Hopkinsville on April 4th. The meeting was very successful. Nearly one hundred physicians were present, which was quite a large number to assemble at a place so far from the center of the state. Papers of sterling merit were read before the society, and the discussions were quite interesting. The committee of arrangements provided well for the comfort of the society. There was a warm welcome given to the members by the profession and citizens of the town, and after the adjournment of the society a magnificent banquet was spread to several hundred guests. The evening was passed in conviviality, good feeling, and pleasant speeches.

Two important changes in regard to the conduct of the society were proposed. A resolution was introduced to the effect that the committee on nominations shall hereafter not consider themselves bound to present for the presidency the name of a physician from the locality where the society meets. This was carried. Another resolution, looking to the foundation of a permanent home for the society, proposed that Louisville should always be the place of its meeting, unless a special invitation were received to meet elsewhere. This resolution was lost, the society, however, accepting a special invitation to meet at Louisville next year.

At first blush it would seem that there could be no doubt that the society should have the range of the state from which to select a president. Custom as strong as law has hitherto restricted its choice to the lo-

cality in which the meeting happened to be held. There is something to be said upon both sides of this question. The old method has done admirably so far. The presidents of the society have all been of the highest respectability. A number have been of the most celebrated of the profession in Kentucky. While, perhaps, a few having just claims upon the highest honors of the society could under the old rule hardly have expected ever to receive them, we have heard no decided disapproval of the society's choice in any single instance. In other words, the old method secured the utmost harmony. Will the new one work as well? We hope so, and are rather glad that an opportunity will be allowed to test this method. The old plan was rather monarchical, and the society has the right at least to have its republican virtues tested. We sincerely hope that if these do not stand the test, and if there be shown a disposition by any member or faction or party in the society to debase the office of the presidency by electioneering, or if any tumults should attend the election endangering the welfare of the society, that the old plan which has worked so well will be immediately re-adopted.

In regard to the permanent location of the society in Louisville, we believe the association wisely rejected the proposition, though, again, much could be said on either side of the question. As regards lines of travel, Louisville is the most central location in the state, and perhaps more physicians would attend the meetings, though past occasions have not shown any great excess in this respect. The migratory character of the society certainly enlists a larger number

of physicians throughout the state in its service and scatters its benefits over a larger area of territory. Situated at Louisville the society would be very apt to degenerate into a local affair and, we fear, be made to further local interests.

NAILED.

The New York Medical Record of April 1st has an editorial headed "Shortening the Time of Study," which refers to educational matters in this city. The American Medical Weekly, in commenting upon it, of course chooses such portions only as suits its purposes, and by a strained commentary endeavors to make it appear that the editor of the New York journal accepts the truth of its wild counter-charges to our *exposé* of the sham of the Louisville-Kentucky School. In a simple statement of the conflict (if the poor dodges of the Phenomenon's organ rise to the dignity of such a name) which exists in Louisville the Record remarks: "If one college gives two full courses in one year, the other does worse." This "worse" the Weekly explains to be that the University of Louisville, "while pledging itself to the public that its spring course is not an official course, and 'does not count,' yet at its close it gives to students who have previously attended one course elsewhere 'a certificate,' which certificate is exchanged in February for a diploma."

The editorial of the Record nowhere intimates such a thing; but as it can scarcely be possible that the true state of the Phenomenon's condition can be appreciated abroad as it is at home, and that its uncontradicted statement may for a time at least be entitled to some consideration, in justice to the institution so wantonly assaulted we do flatly contradict the assertion here. Any candidate for the degree of the University who is entitled to an examination in February, and who fails upon that examination, may, if he so desires, have a second trial immediately, should his rejection not have been too decided; or if he so elects he may

attend the spring course, and come up again for examination in July, when, if he be successful, he is given a certificate of the fact and granted a diploma at the end of the following winter's term, which is the only time that the diplomas of the University are granted. *No candidate for the degree of the University is allowed to come forward for examination in July who was not entitled to the same privilege in the February preceding.* This amounts simply to lengthening the time of study by one course. It is known every where as "coming in on the omnibus." Perhaps on an average two a year avail themselves of this privilege, and yet the Weekly seizes upon this mare's nest, and makes it an offset for the Phenomenon's July mill! Says that journal, "The pledge of the University to the public that its spring course is not official is really secretly but *demonstrably* violated." Demonstration is certainly to be desired. We call the attention of the profession to the fact that not one of the many charges we have made against the Diploma Mill have been unaccompanied by this sort of proof.

The New York Medical Record is entitled to the thanks of the profession for the efficient service it has done the cause of medical education in this country by the article we have referred to. We have felt all along that in our attempts to expose the state of affairs which exists in the Louisville-Kentucky School we labored under the disadvantage of proving too much. The professional mind is slow to believe that such an enormity could exist any where. The tone of surprise which pervades the editorial of the Record is significant. If so well-informed and impartial a journal as this has just been thoroughly aroused to the fact that such practices as we have alluded to have been "not only unchecked but unrebuked," what could be expected from quarters not so favored? We are the apologists for no men. We have never been on the defensive. What we want is to call attention to Louisville and to the state of affairs which exists in the "third medical center of the Union."

They are of more than local interest. We want a thorough sifting, and that the guilty should be separated from the innocent. We sincerely thank the Record that it has in so spirited a way sounded the alarm. The following are its closing paragraphs:

"If the facts stated by either side are true, there is a system of corruption in the matter of medical teaching there which is melancholy to contemplate. We have not noticed any defense for the yearly two-course system; in fact, it is virtually admitted in attempting to justify the course pursued by a reference to similar doings elsewhere. . . .

"If this be true, and we see no reason to doubt it, it is high time that the profession looked this matter fairly in the face; it is high time that this monstrous evil should be in some way remedied. What hope can there be for reform in medical education if the system of corruption in so-called high places is allowed to go on not only unchecked but unrebuked?"

KENTUCKY STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS—MORNING SESSION.

The Kentucky State Medical Society met at Hopkinsville Tuesday, April 4th, and was called to order at 11 o'clock by Dr. J. A. Hodge, of Henderson, president.

Prayer by the Rev. Dr. W. B. Perry, of Hopkinsville.

Dr. L. B. Hickman, of Hopkinsville, chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, delivered an address cordially welcoming the society and offering the hospitalities of the city.

The president announced the Committee on Credentials, as follows: Dr. Thomas, of Christian County, chairman; Dr. J. A. Larrabee, of Louisville; Dr. R. W. Gaines, of Hopkinsville; Dr. Withers, of Lyon County; and Dr. J. G. Brooks, of Paducah.

The names of Drs. Marvin, Meany, Griffiths, Taylor, Keller, Berzowski, Oppenheimer, and others were presented for membership, and referred to the Committee on Credentials.

Dr. L. P. Yandell offered suitable resolutions as a tribute to the memory of Dr. Lewis Rogers, which were adopted.

Dr. J. M. Keller moved that Dr. L. S.

McMurtry, of Danville, be appointed chairman of a committee to draft suitable resolutions on the death of Dr. John D. Jackson, of Danville. Carried.

Dr. W. H. Long moved that a memorial page for each be set apart in the next transactions to the memory of Drs. Lewis Rogers and John D. Jackson. Carried.

Dr. L. P. Yandell read a report from the Louisville Academy of Medicine, detailing the transactions of that society for the past year. Referred to Committee on Publication.

The chairman of the Committee on Credentials reported favorably on all names submitted except two from Louisville. These were not members of any local society, though applications for membership in local societies had been made, but time sufficient to be made members had not yet elapsed. He moved a suspension of the rules in order that they might report favorably on them.

After considerable discussion the rules were suspended, and a favorable report made, with the condition that they do become members of a local society.

The secretary, Dr. J. W. Singleton, of Paducah, made a report showing the condition of the society to be prosperous beyond precedent, and considerable funds in the treasury.

The treasurer, Dr. J. A. Larrabee, of Louisville, made a brief report on finances, showing the amount of money received, disbursed, and on hand. For the first time in its history the society is out of debt.

Dr. L. P. Yandell reported the action of the Publication Committee, and the circumstances that guided them in making up the last volume of Transactions.

Dr. L. B. Hickman, in behalf of Prof. Rust, extended an invitation to the society to visit the Rust Female Academy at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

On motion the society adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Dr. Hodge in the chair.

The reports of special committees were called for.

The secretary read a letter from Dr. P. H. Bailhache, of Washington City, chairman of the Committee on the Diseases of Military Life, stating that his report was completed and had been forwarded.

Dr. Larrabee, of Louisville, read a lengthy report on scarlet fever and malarial epidemics, which was referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. F. C. Wilson, chairman of the Committee on Transfusion, read an interesting report, and with apparatus explained the method used by him in the cases in which he had performed the operation. Referred to the Committee on Publication.

On motion and second, Dr. Wilson's paper was made the subject for discussion to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

The president announced the Committee on Nominations, with Dr. J. M. Bodine as chairman.

A resolution was introduced making Louisville the permanent place for all future meetings. To pass to a second reading to-morrow, when action will be taken.

Adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

At night the president's address was delivered to a large audience at the City Hall. Dr. John Speed, of Louisville, also read a paper on Nature in Disease.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

Dr. Hodge in the chair.

Several new names were proposed for membership, and referred to the Committee on Credentials.

A resolution was offered to allow the secretary, Dr. J. W. Singleton, compensation for his services. Quite a discussion ensued in regard to the amount to be allowed. Dr. Singleton opposed the resolution. It was finally adopted, and fifty dollars was the amount agreed upon.

Dr. L. P. Yandell, jr., offered a resolution to the effect that all members once dropped for non-payment of dues shall not be again received until all arrears be paid.

Dr. Keller offered a resolution that a committee be appointed to revise the constitu-

tion and by-laws and report at the next meeting. Adopted. Drs. E. S. Gaillard, R. H. Gale, and J. M. Keller were appointed by the president as said committee.

The Committee on Nominations reported the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Dr. R. W. Gaines, of Hopkinsville; senior vice-president, Dr. C. H. Todd, of Owensboro; junior vice-president, Dr. L. S. McMurtry, of Danville; recording secretary, Dr. J. H. Letcher, of Henderson; corresponding secretary, Dr. A. D. Price, of Harrodsburg; treasurer, Dr. J. A. Larrabee, of Louisville; librarian, Dr. J. J. Speed, of Louisville; Committee on Publication, Drs. J. W. Thompson, D. A. Maxwell, and J. G. Brooks, of Paducah.

Dr. L. P. Yandell, chairman of the Committee on Medical Literature, read a report on the lives and writings of Drs. Caldwell and Drake, and said that his work, extending through a period of several years, was now completed. The papers were referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. L. P. Yandell offered a resolution sustaining the action of the American Medical Association in its efforts to increase the standard of medical education.

The editor of the Hopkinsville New Era asked permission to publish the address of the president, which, after some discussion on the propriety of furnishing to secular papers medical addresses, was granted.

The president called the hour for special business (the discussion of Dr. Wilson's report on transfusion).

Dr. R. O. Cowling, of Louisville, opened the discussion, and reported four cases of the operation performed by himself. All four cases terminated fatally—one during the operation, the other three soon after. He believed that death in the immediate fatal case was due to over-stimulation of the heart.

Dr. Keller followed, and in view of the facts as reported doubted the advisability of the operation.

Dr. Larrabee said that transfusion had been recommended in phthisis, but doubted

the advisability of the operation in this disease, and gave his reasons therefor.

Dr. Wilson reported two cases transfused by himself, death resulting in both.

Dr. Ochterlony made a few remarks on the mode of death in fatal cases of transfusion, and doubted if over-stimulation of the heart had been proved by Dr. Cowling.

Dr. L. P. Yandell, jr., said he believed that the operation had been performed too late in all the cases reported.

Dr. L. P. Yandell, jr., of Louisville, read a report on dermatology, presenting the theory that all chronic cases of skin affections were due primarily to a strumous diathesis, and acute skin diseases to malaria, excluding exanthematous diseases. Referred to Committee on Publication.

Dr. McMurtry, of Danville, reported the progress of the McDowell Memorial fund.

Adjourned until two o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Dr. Hodge in the chair.

Dr. Ochterlony, of Louisville, read a lengthy paper on syphilitic diseases of the skin. Referred to proper committee.

Dr. M. F. Coomes, of Louisville, read a paper on chronic suppuration of the middle ear. Referred to Committee on Publication.

Dr. Compton, of Evansville, Ind., read a paper on the use and effects of the sulphate of cinchonidia. Referred.

Dr. L. P. Yandell made a few remarks on the use of the sulphate of quinia, cinchona, and cinchonidia.

Drs. Larrabee and Singleton presented papers, which were referred to the Committee on Publication without reading.

Dr. McMurtry asked permission to write the resolutions on the death of Dr. John D. Jackson and send the same to the committee on publication. Granted.

The resolution making Louisville the permanent place of meeting was read the second time and was defeated.

Dr. L. P. Yandell, jr., moved that the society meet at Louisville on the first Tuesday in April, 1877. Carried.

Dr. Cullom offered a resolution to the ef-

fect that in the future the society disregard the custom of electing its presiding officer from the town at which the society meets. Carried.

A resolution was offered that the society in the future discourage the expensive entertainments usually given at the places where it meets. Carried.

A motion was made and carried to appoint a committee on necrology.

Dr. Larrabee offered a resolution that the society tender to Dr. Rodman, physician in charge of the lunatic asylum, its sympathies in his bereavement of his little daughter, who died this morning. Adopted.

Dr. Long offered a resolution tendering the unanimous thanks of the society to Dr. Singleton for the faithful manner in which he has performed his duties as secretary. Adopted.

A resolution was offered by Dr. Keller extending the thanks of the society to Dr. J. A. Hodge for the impartial manner with which he has discharged the duties of his office as presiding officer. Adopted.

A resolution tendering the thanks of the society to the Christian County Medical Society and the citizens of Hopkinsville for courtesies shown during the session was adopted unanimously.

A vote of thanks was given to Markham & Byington and Wm. G. Schmidt for their elegant display of instruments, and to Buntin & Armstrong, of Terre Haute, Ind., for their display and samples of new remedies.

The following delegates were appointed to the American Medical Association: P. H. Bailhache, Louisville; T. J. Griffiths, Louisville; J. A. Larrabee, Louisville; J. M. Bodine, Louisville; L. P. Yandell, jr., Louisville; J. M. Keller, Louisville; F. C. Wilson, Louisville; J. A. Ochterlony, Louisville; E. S. Gaillard, Louisville; C. H. Todd, Owensboro; J. P. Letcher, Lexington; R. M. King, Madison; J. A. Carr, Princeton; J. P. Thomas, Pembroke Station; J. W. Singleton, Paducah; J. M. Montmollin, Ashland; Chas. Mann, Nicholasville; W. M. Hanna, Henderson; J. H. Letcher, Henderson; J.

A. Hodge, Henderson; W. M. Fuqua, Hopkinsville; L. B. Hickman, Hopkinsville; J. O. McReynolds, Elkton; J. N. Bass, Elkton; J. N. Metcalf, Garrettsburg; O. L. Drake, Slaughter ville; L. B. Todd, Lexington; H. M. Skillman, Lexington.

The following gentlemen were appointed chairmen of special committees: Philosophy of Medicine, Jas. Wheeler, of Hopkinsville; Syphilis, Irvin Keller, of Louisville; Surgical Diseases of Military Life, P. H. Bailhache, U. S. M. H. S.; Ophthalmology, D. S. Reynolds, Louisville; Glaucoma, P. F. Johnson, Owensboro; Hysteria, J. S. Desmukes, Mayfield; Pyæmia, E. R. Palmer, Louisville; Malarial Complications, J. W. Singleton, Paducah; U. S. Marine Hospital, T. J. Griffiths, Louisville; Necrology, J. B. Marvin, Louisville; Diseases of Children, J. A. Larabee, Louisville; Sprains, R. O. Cowling, Louisville; Otology, M. F. Coomes, Louisville; Physiological and Pathological Changes in Blood Corpuscles, F. C. Wilson, of Louisville; Gynecology, W. H. Wathen, of Louisville; New Remedies, J. A. Ochterlony, of Louisville; Aspirator and its Uses, D. W. Yandell, of Louisville; Diseases of the Genito-urinary Organs, R. F. Logan, of Shelbyville; Diseases of the Throat, R. C. Brandeis, of Louisville.

The following standing committees were appointed: Vital Statistics, D. N. Porter, of Eminence; Epidemics, L. S. McMurtry, of Danville; Obstetrics, W. H. Long, of Louisville; Improvements in Surgery, W. O. Roberts, of Louisville; Finance, H. L. McNary, of Princeton; Improvements in Practice of Medicine, Turner Anderson, of Louisville; Hygiene, W. H. Sanders, of Smithland; Medical Ethics, R. M. Farleigh, of Hopkinsville; Materia Medica, L. P. Yandell, jr., of Louisville; Dermatology, L. P. Yandell, jr., of Louisville; Necrology, L. B. Todd, of Lexington.

Drs. L. P. Yandell, jr., J. A. Ochterlony, E. D. Foree, W. H. Long, and Turner Anderson were appointed a Committee on Arrangements.

Adjourned.

Correspondence.

GRINDELIA ROBUSTA IN THE PAROXYSMS OF ASTHMA.

In January, 1875, I treated Mr. T. K., aged thirty, for asthma. He had suffered from it since infancy. His father was a life-long sufferer from the same affection; my patient, therefore, may be said to have *hereditary* asthma. I had tried nearly every known remedy without satisfactory results. I concluded to test the then new remedy—grindelia robusta—and ordered a bottle of the fluid extract from New York City, not being able to find any here. I directed Mr. K. to take forty-drop doses, repeated every one or two hours. When he had taken three or four doses the paroxysm promptly disappeared. An interval of two or three months elapsed before another return, the usual interval formerly having been ten days to two weeks. On the reappearance of the asthma he resumed the use of the remedy without any good results. Three months ago (December, 1875) he had a most violent attack, when the grindelia redeemed itself by relieving him at once.

I have used the grindelia freely in a number of cases, finding it often serviceable, and now prescribe it as my first remedy in such cases. If it fail, I fall back to the usual treatment in this affection.

Mr. K. continues to use the grindelia as a preventive, placing himself under its influence upon the first intimation of an approaching paroxysm, and thereby escapes it. Of course, in using this new remedy I do not lay aside hygienic measures.

JOHN B. RICHARDSON, M. D.

LOUISVILLE.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-seventh annual session will be held in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., on Tuesday, June 6, 1876, at 11 A. M.

"The delegates shall receive their appointment from permanently organized state medical societies, and such county and dis-

strict medical societies as are recognized by *representation in their respective state societies*, and from the Medical Department of the Army and Navy of the United States."

"Each state, county, and district medical society entitled to representation shall have the privilege of sending to the Association one delegate for every ten of its regular resident members, and one for every additional fraction of more than half that number; *Provided*, however, that the number of delegates for any particular state, territory, county, city, or town shall not exceed the ratio of one in ten of the resident physicians who may have signed the Code of Ethics of the Association."

Secretaries of medical societies as above designated are earnestly requested to forward *at once* lists of their delegates, in order that the Committee of Arrangements may be enabled to form some idea of the number likely to be present.

Sections.—"The chairmen of the several sections shall prepare and read in the general sessions of the Association papers on the advances and discoveries of the past year in the branches of science included in their respective sections. . . ." (By-Laws, art. 2, sec. 4.) "Papers appropriate to the several sections, in order to secure consideration and action, must be sent to the secretary of the appropriate section at least one month before the meeting which is to act upon them. It shall be the duty of the secretary to whom such papers are sent to examine them with care, and with the advice of the chairman of his section to determine the time and order of their presentation, and give due notice of the same. . . ." (By-Laws, art. 2, sec. 5.)

W. B. ATKINSON.

PHILADELPHIA.

Selections.

SALICYLIC ACID.—Dr. J. C. Ogilvie Will, Assistant Surgeon to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, contributes to the London Lancet an able article on this subject, from which we make the following abstract:

"Although salicylic acid has been much vaunted by continental surgeons, more especially by Thiersch and Kolbe, as superior as an antiseptic to carbolic acid, it has not, so far as I am aware, come into general use in this country, and the recent discussion at the Clinical Society will probably not do much to advance its cause. A pretty extended trial of it has, however, convinced me that in it we possess an agent of extreme value in a large class of cases; but I do not intend at present entering on a detailed account of the cases in which it is found useful, but simply to direct attention to its value as an antiseptic, to its advantages over other substances used for a like purpose, and to a few of the forms in which it may be employed, with brief notes of some cases as illustrative of its beneficial action.

"In proof of its powers as a corrector of putrefaction I may briefly refer to two cases: one of amputation of the thigh, at present under Prof. Pirrie's care in the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary; the other, mammary cancer.

"The former patient, a girl aged nineteen, was the subject of extensive necrosis of the femur. She was much reduced, and amputation was had recourse to, but with very grave doubts as to the ultimate result. The vessels were acupressed and water-dressing applied. As was expected, there was considerable supuration, accompanied by great fetor. The applications used at this time were daily syringing with one-to-forty solution of carbolic acid and dressings impregnated with red lotion. Salicylic ointment was then applied, and within two days the fetor entirely disappeared and healing action commenced.

"In a case of medullary cancer of the mamma, where the fungoid growth involved the entire gland, extended upward nearly to the clavicle and well down into the axilla, and from which the fetor was so intense that the patient had to be removed to an out-of-the-way apartment, I ordered daily syringing with a one-to-forty carbolic solution and a liniment of olive oil and salicylic acid, with which the sore was covered. By these applications putrefactive changes were arrested, the fetor disappeared, and the patient was rendered comparatively comfortable, while the attendants were not as before repelled from attending to her, which they had been by the disgusting odor pervading the atmosphere surrounding her.

"With regard to boracic acid, very many still doubt its reliability as an antiseptic, and I confess I am not yet convinced that implicit trust can be placed in it; but even granting that it is a useful agent, on account of the extreme difficulty of blending it with fatty substances it is the bane of those who have to compound ointments into the composition of which it enters. Salicylic acid can, on the contrary, be easily incorporated with such menstrua; salicylic acid is, on the other hand, only sparingly soluble in water, but

a sufficiently strong watery solution can be readily prepared by the addition of a small quantity of biborate of soda and heating. The presence of a minute portion of borax could only seldom be looked on as objectionable, and might in fact be of value in those cases where the action of a mild astringent is indicated. Still, as aqueous solutions of carbolic and boracic acids of the strength now in vogue do not act as irritants, it is unlikely that watery solutions of salicylic acid will ever come into general use, though Thiersch and others employ them. I certainly do not class this as a virtue possessed by the new antiseptic, but for the reasons given it can hardly be looked on as an objection. Finally, salicylic acid is not volatile, therefore dressings impregnated with it retain their antiseptic properties longer; it is tasteless and non-poisonous.

"As already mentioned, heat and the addition of borax increase its solubility; a clear lotion of considerable strength can thus be obtained. For instance, ten grains of acid can be readily dissolved in one ounce of water by heating and then adding six grains of borax, or even twenty grains of the acid will be taken up by an ounce of water if fourteen grains of borax are added. These solutions, in addition to their use as lotions, may be used as gargles where an antiseptic and astringent gargle is indicated. To a surface where it can be accurately applied and where the discharge is slight, though I have tried it with excellent effect where it was profuse, as in the case of the girl above noticed, the cerate suggested by Prof. Lister for rodent ulcer—salicylic taking the place of boracic acid—is a nice application. The formula is from half a dram to a dram of salicylic acid, one dram of white wax, two drams of paraffin, and two drams of almond oil; melt and rub up in a heated mortar. It should be spread on strips of muslin or fine linen.

"Another ointment may be made of sperm oil, $1\frac{1}{2}$ drams; oil of theobroma, $5\frac{1}{2}$ drams; salicylic acid, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 dram. This forms a thick paste, which should be thickly spread on lint. The heat of the surface acting on the oil of theobroma, a diffusible ointment is formed, which is a suitable application when it is desired to have the discharge thoroughly saturated with the antiseptic. An ointment less easily acted on by the body-heat consists of sperm oil and paraffin, each $1\frac{1}{2}$ drams; oil of theobroma, 2 drams; oil of almonds, 1 dram; salicylic acid, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 dram.

"A very simple and most useful ointment, and one which answers admirably in some affections of the skin, is formed of half a dram to one dram of the acid to seven drams of simple ointment. Though neither watery nor oily preparations of this acid belong to what is termed elegant pharmacy, yet a liniment of salicylic acid and olive oil will be found of much efficacy in burns. As an example I may cite a case

of a burn, involving the upper arm and nearly the whole back of a child aged seven, where I recently employed it. Carron oil had been applied, and when my advice was requested, two days after, free suppuration had taken place, accompanied by great fetor. Lint soaked in olive oil and salicylic acid—twelve drams of the acid to sixteen ounces of oil—was prescribed. The result was most satisfactory—the fetor disappearing, the suppuration rapidly decreasing, the pain greatly abating, and kindly healing action taking place. In less than a fortnight the whole surface was healed, with the exception of two small spots covered by healthy granulations, to which red lotion was applied. I have since found that a much weaker oily solution (two drams of the acid to eight ounces of oil) was all-sufficient in a case of severe scald of the foot lately under treatment.

"For cancerous sores Thiersch recommends dusting with the pure acid or with equal parts of the powder and starch, or powder formed of charcoal and the acid might be employed for the same purpose or for dusting over the face of poultices applied to sloughing surfaces. Endless preparations might be devised, but those I have described seem to me as useful as any combinations with which I am acquainted, and therefore I shall leave others to modify them in any way that may suit their tastes or modes of treatment.

"Though I stated in the outset that I did not intend entering on details of cases, yet I can not refrain from urging its use in eczematous affections, for nowhere is its beneficial action more marked than in them. In the eczema of children, more especially in that found affecting the head and face, it is far superior to any remedy I have yet employed. It was, in fact, the results attending the use of salicylic acid in a case of the kind that first convinced me of its value, and I have since found that others have formed a like estimate of it in similar cases. A child, aged eighteen months, had been under my care for many weeks with a patch of eczema rubrum on the cheek. I had tried all kinds of local applications, and had given arsenic and iron-wine internally, but with no avail; for though at times it seemed to be giving way to treatment, a fit of itching, I suppose, had caused the child to rub it, and increased irritation always followed. I had not before used salicylic acid, and had but little faith in good accruing from its exhibition, but as a last resource I prescribed an ointment containing one dram of acid to an ounce of lard. When I next visited the child, a few days after, the patch had nearly healed, and very shortly after it was perfectly whole. In another case the result was almost equally striking, but here it was the first application used. A child, aged six months, had a patch of E. impetiginodes on the occiput; it had first appeared about a month before. As some parts were thickly

covered by crusts, a poultice was used to detach them, and then salicylic ointment was rubbed in. In six days every vestige of disease had disappeared. A brother and sister, aged three and five, were the subjects of eczema narium of short standing. Salicylic ointment was applied on a Friday, and on the following Monday the surfaces were perfectly healed. It is unnecessary to occupy space by entering on details of other cases, but I may simply say that in very many I have found it answer admirably."

CHILD-BEARING IN CALIFORNIA.—We extract the following from an article by Dr. Wm. A. Thom, jr., M. D., of San Gabriel, California, published in the Virginia Medical Monthly: "One night in October, 1875, I was called to see Chatta Ochoa, a multipara, her husband saying that she was in labor. When I arrived I found that the child had been born, but the placenta was still undelivered. She was sitting up in bed, supported by one of the three *Parteras* or midwives, pale, bathed in cold perspiration, pulse rapid and weak, and the bed was soaked through with blood, which dripped on the floor and ran off through an opening at the side of the room. I laid the patient flat, and on examination found the partially detached placenta tamponing the mouth of the womb, the womb itself having a soft, doughy feel. Around her waist was a corded sheet, in which, directly over the abdomen, was a moderately hard substance, the use of which I did not understand. I lost no time in removing the placenta, with which came a fearful gush of blood. I gave ergot, and kneaded the womb within and without, and in a few minutes had the satisfaction of finding my hand expelled from the womb, which only relaxed once more, and then took the hard, billiard-ball feel. The patient made a very fair recovery. On inquiry I found that the sitting posture and the rope sheet with its ovoid appendage were used to *keep the blood from going to the brain*. The last-named affair I found to consist of horse manure, baked, cooled, and packed into this shape. This horse manure is supposed to have the virtue of keeping the blood in its neighborhood. In a conversation with a woman who has lived long in this community I find that the following is the way in which a regular Mexican midwife performs her duty: A rope is suspended from the ceiling. Under the loose end of this a folded blanket is placed, on which the woman kneels and grasps the rope, arms extended. Behind her is placed a strong man with his arms around her waist, while in front sits the midwife with both hands on the perineum. When a pain comes on the woman pulls on the rope, the man squeezes, and the midwife bears against the perineum, which she at the same time strokes from behind forward. After the child has been thus squeezed, shaken, and jolted out, the woman is then

put to bed and arranged with her rope sheet, horse manure, and in the sitting posture, all complete just as I found my patient."

DISORDERS OF SLEEP.—Dr. L. B. Edwards, editor of the Virginia Medical Monthly, in a note on a paper on "Some of the Disorders of Sleep," by Dr. S. W. Mitchell, says: "In cases similar to those described by Dr. Mitchell, as also in other acute neuroses due to the tobacco-habit—especially those cases marked by nervousness, muscular irritability, and tremor, etc., resulting from the abuse of *smoking*—the clinical experience of the editor has led him to lay great stress on the use of strychnia. The beneficial results of the treatment of the so-called tobacco amaurosis by strychnia, as also the known physiological antidotal effect of tobacco in strychnia poisoning, probably suggested the use of strychnia in cases of neurotic troubles resulting from tobacco. But while the editor is not aware of any publication on the subject here incidentally mentioned, he can not think that equally favorable results could have eluded the observation of those who have treated 'tobacco amaurosis' with strychnia; for in many of the cases of the so-called amaurosis so treated there must have been some of the symptoms here alluded to, which have disappeared rapidly under treatment of the amaurosis by strychnia. The most prompt and decided benefit of strychnia in controlling the acute shaking-palsy or tremor of the hands resulting from tobacco excesses has been witnessed by the editor on two occasions in the same individual, when the strychnia has been used hypodermically in the forearm. In this case the patient recognized quite sensibly the physiological effect of strychnia when even a single dose of one twentieth of a grain was given by the stomach; hence only one ninetieth of a grain was given hypodermically. Within fifteen or twenty minutes thereafter the muscular control of the hand of the side in which the injection was made (right) was nearly perfect, and the general nervousness was perceptibly modified. Space here does not allow of a fuller statement of the clinical facts in regard to strychnia in tobacco neuroses outside of the so-called 'tobacco amaurosis.' Indeed, this hasty note has been added after an inquiry by letter of Dr. Mitchell as to his experience with strychnia in the class of cases referred to. He replies that he has long used it in like cases, but does not know of any publication of the facts, and therefore asks that a note be made of them. At a future time the editor will give more in detail the results of his observation of the agent, should the subject be deemed of sufficient interest, or should the details not be given by other observers."

DYES FOR EASTER EGGS.—To obtain a red color, boil the eggs in a decoction of Brazil-wood, or boil

the eggs and the wood together in a sufficient quantity of water. In the same manner Persian berries produce a yellow, turmeric a brown, and logwood a deep claret color. By adding chromate of potassa to logwood a black is obtained. To dye blue make the following solution: Boiling water, 2 pints; sulphate of iron, crystals, 75 grs.; indigo, powdered, 45 grs.; slacked lime, dry, $2\frac{1}{2}$ drams. Mix together and stir every half hour for three or four hours, cover, and allow to settle about twelve hours. Decant the clear liquor, and dip into it the eggs already boiled but still warm. The blue color only appears on exposure to the air. Green is produced by the successive application of blue and yellow; various shades of purple, violet, etc., by red and blue. Housekeepers have a simple method for imparting variegated colors, which consists in wrapping the egg in a piece of printed muslin and boiling it thus in water; sometimes very pretty patterns are in that manner printed on the shell of the egg. All the above are the old-fashioned processes; they are harmless, easy, and inexpensive. Aniline dyes would probably answer also for most colors, but they are not quite so convenient for home dyeing, as it is not every one who has at his disposal the necessary assortment, and it is not easy to procure the very small quantity of each kind required.—*Druggists' Circular*.

HOW TO MAKE RAW MEAT PALATABLE TO INVALIDS.—The following receipt for this purpose has been given by Ivon: Raw meat (from the loin), 250 grammes (8.7 oz.); shelled sweet almonds, 75 grammes (2.6 ounces); shelled bitter almonds, 5 grammes (.17 ounce); white sugar, 80 grammes (2.8 ounces); these substances to be beaten together in a marble mortar to a uniform pulp, and the fibers separated by a strainer. The pulp, which has a rosy hue and a very agreeable taste, does not at all remind one of meat, and may be kept fresh for a considerable time, even in summer, in a dry, cool place. Yolk of egg may be added to it. From this pulp, or directly from the above substances, an emulsion may be prepared which will be rendered still more nutritious by the addition of milk. Lailler prefers the following preparation: Dried raw meat, 100 grammes (3.5 ounces); sugar, 40 grammes (1.4 ounces); wine, 20 grammes (.7 ounce); tincture of cinnamon, 3 grammes (.1 ounce). It is a kind of electuary, very agreeable to the palate.—*Industrie-Blatter*.

LIME-JUICE AND PEPSINE.—Dr. Arthur Farr, of London (says the Chemist and Druggist), has started the idea of administering pepsine in cases of dyspepsia in conjunction with lime-juice. He believes that the antiscorbutic value of the latter is due to its power of dissolving certain portions of food; and having regard to the fact that the gastric fluid in-

riably contains acid of one kind or another, he concludes not unreasonably that the acid may perhaps claim some credit in promoting the digestive process. This combination, therefore, theoretically suggested, he has used practically, he says, with the best results; and his preparation, which seems to be a mixture of pepsine and lime-juice, is now offered generally to the trade and to the public.

REMOVAL OF SILVER STAINS FROM CLOTHES.—The following method is particularly successful with clothes that have been previously washed: The soiled piece is for a few minutes immersed in a concentrated solution of chlorate of copper, and the stain is then rubbed with a crystal of sodium hyposulphite previously dipped into ammonia which has been diluted with an equal bulk of water. If the copper chloride has been quite neutral, the color of the fabric will not be affected. This process may, if necessary, be repeated several times.—*Phot. Arch—Amer. Journal of Pharmacy*.

HAIR INVIGORATOR.—"1. Is there any really reliable preparation for causing whiskers to grow upon the face? 2. What is the best article for hardening the skin of the lip when the membrane is very delicate and subject to cold sores on slight irritation?" *Answer*: 1. There is none, to our knowledge. 2. A weak solution of tannin with some glycerine might be used with advantage.—*Druggists' Circular*.

PILLS FOR OBSTINATE NEURALGIA.—The *Bordeaux Medical* gives the following formula for obstinate neuralgia, especially ileo-lumbar neuralgia: Valerianate of ammonia and quinine, each 30 grains. Make into twenty pills, and take from two to ten of them each day, increasing one pill per diem. After taking these pills for ten days suspend their use for five days.—*The Doctor*.

Miscellany.

—We have found out how the Weekly was occupied during the two or three weeks' interval of silence. It was contemplating the valedictory address upon "The Relations of Medicine to Modern Unbelief," lately delivered by one of the editors of this journal. It gives the result of its lucubrations in a critique of fifteen pages, about as long as the address itself, in its heavier gun, the "Richmond and Louisville Journal." We

congratulate it upon spending its time so advantageously, and we are delighted at receiving in its disapproval such testimony to the merits of our poor effort. We freely accept, however, its criticism upon our ignorance of scientific and theological matters, and shall address ourselves to the further study of these subjects. Will it be so kind as to send us its remarks upon "The Coral Reefs of Florida," delivered to that brilliant audience some years ago, which were received with so much applause by—Prof. Bell; also its prize essay on *Scarlatina*, wherein it was so ably shown that "*Scarlatina* and *Scarlet Fever* are for the most part identical;" and that paper on the *Mosaic Record* in which "Mr. Dickens' Topsy" so "conspicuously" appears? We promise to study them. And will the *Weekly* inform us in which domain it has found that *Phenomenon*, the *Louisville-Kentucky School*, whether in that of Religion or Science? The cause of these fifteen pages of tears is too evident.

—From an address by Dr. G. R. Patton, of Lake City, Mich., before the Alumni Association of Miami Medical College, February 26, 1876 (*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*), we extract the following: "How changed is all this now! Any young man merely able to read, write, and cipher, with a memory untrained, perceptive and reasoning faculties unexercised, one, in short, whose brain has lain fallow all through life—a good nurse, mechanic, or agriculturist, perhaps—such a one possibly can at the present time, in less than a twelvemonth, carry home a veritable diploma to his admiring friends and a *surprised* public! Now, it may have really happened that this medical mushroom—say rather this toadstool prodigy—had a friend in his native place with like talent for ignorance, though less ambitious, who entered a blacksmith-shop to earn honestly in three years his trade at the same time that he journeyed to the college of his choice. Behold! a full-grown doctor *medicinæ* stalks into the shop of the poor smith before he has half learned his trade! This

is not a cunningly-devised caricature nor a fable, but essentially a matter of fact of not uncommon recurrence; it is the unvarnished statement of an obvious truth; and if its agitation is heresy, it would be well that there were more heretics; if treason, let traitors be multiplied; or if intoxication, let all drink deeper, but out of the same flagon."

—The *Phenomenon's* organ contains a curious editorial upon the abolition(?) of the diploma fee, which has been objected to by "a shrewd and astute" editor northward. The A. M. W. says in effect: Let x represent the original price of a diploma, then $2x$ will stand for the amount spent in this way on each pupil of the *Phenomenon*; and if " y " represents the ordinary amount of trouble in conferring one of the documents on a student, and the square root of " y " that required to present a Bobolink with such a commission to slay, then it must be "conspicuous" that it is not only "fatal, but ill-advised," for any jury of American doctors to inflict such damages as represented by the variables of " z ." We confess that we are not as much mathematical as we were, but we have a plain unvarnished tale told in the numerical method which puts this down: 30 times 75, which equals \$2,250, used to represent the diploma income of the *Louisville-Kentucky School*. It abolished the old plan of making graduates pay for their own diplomas, and assessed \$10 apiece on all the class alike. Now 10 times 275—2,750—represents the diploma income. Balance in favor of virtue, \$500. Who would n't?

—Our neighbor, the *American Medical Weekly*, has put its head out of its hole at last. In its agitation it speaks thus: "This sham and fraud *are* being perpetrated." Before it jerks its head back at the first motion we make at it, we would like for it to answer one question. It says, "Four first-class medical colleges (two of which ARE the *Louisville-Kentucky School*) which administer to their graduates the admirable and time-honored Hippocratic oath." The question is, what fees have been charged the sons of physicians who have attended these

schools and have swallowed the admirable and time-honored oath?

WHAT SAVAGES THINK OF TWINS.—In Africa, according to Dr. Robert Brown (*Races of Mankind*), the birth of twins is commonly regarded as an evil omen. No one, except the twins themselves and their nearest relatives, is allowed to enter the hut in which they first saw the light. The children are not allowed to play with other children, and even the utensils of the hut are not permitted to be used by any one else. The mother is not allowed to talk to any one not belonging to her own family. If the children both live till the end of the sixth year, it is supposed that Nature has accommodated herself to their existence, and they are thenceforth to associate with their fellows. Nor is abomination of twin births restricted to Africa. In the island of Bali, near Java, a woman who is so unfortunate as to bear twins is obliged, along with her husband, to live for a month at the sea-shore or among the tombs, until she is purified. The Khasias of Hindostan consider that to have twins assimilates the mother to the lower animals, and one is frequently put to death. An exactly similar belief prevails among some of the native tribes of Vancouver Island. Among the Ainos one of the twins is always killed; and in Arebo, in Guinea, both the twins and the mother are put to death.—*Popular Science Monthly*.

A RAT MADE TO WORK.—The Popular Science Monthly relates an amusing incident in connection with telegraphing, and tells how a telegraph inspector in England harnessed a rat and compelled it to do some useful work. It was necessary to overhaul a cable of wires inclosed in iron tubes. A certain length of the cable had to be taken out of the tube, and the men commenced hauling at one end, without having taken the precaution to attach to the other a wire by which it might be drawn back after inspection and repairs. The question arose how the cable was to be restored to its proper place. The inspector invoked the aid of a rat-catcher; and, provided with a large rat,

a ferret, and a ball of string wound on the Morse paper drum, he repaired to the opening in the tube. The flush boxes were opened, and the rat, with one end of the string attached to his body, was put into the pipe. He scampered away at racing pace, dragging the twine with him until he reached the middle of the pipe, and there stopped. The ferret was then put in, and off went the rat again until he sprang clear out of the flush box. One length of the cable was thus safe, and the same operation was commenced with the other; but the rat stopped short a few yards from the pipe, and boldly awaited the approach of the ferret. A sharp combat ensued, but after sundry jerks at the string the combatants separated, the rat making for the other extremity of the pipe, carrying the string through and relieving the inspector from his anxiety.—*Druggists' Circular*.

OUR DRAINS.—(*Boston Jour. of Chem.*) The London Builder, under this title, gives the following spirited example of sanitary poetry, which unfortunately is as apropos in some of our American cities as it is in those of England:

Our drains! our drains! our foul, leaking drains!
They poison the air of our streets and our lanes,
In city and suburb, in hamlet and town,
'Neath dwellings and workshops, wherever laid down.
Can reason still fail young and old to convince
That sewer-gas slaughters both peasant and prince?
How can we have health if the blood in our veins
Is poisoned by breathing foul air from the drains?

Our drains! our drains! our badly made drains!
That give out their smells ere and after it rains,
Sickening the robust man walking the flags,
Prostrating the half-nourished worker in rags,
Swift-stealing through panels where fashion and rank
Sit proudly on cushions in drives from the bank.
But headache and faintness and death-boding pains
Go home in the carriage to tell of the drains.

Our drains! our drains! our death-dealing drains!
Choked up, with no outlet for rotten remains,
Chronic hotbeds of typhoid, full of foul silt,
Reflecting our ignorance, proving our guilt,
And showing that we have been riding rough-shod
O'er nature and morals and maxims of God.
For pure air and water in cities and plains
Spell health, if we keep right our dwellings and drains.